

Bypass Reasons: Narrative Required

Since 2003, use of refusal code 862 (Donor Medical Urgency - formerly 991) has required the OPO to submit written documentation of the circumstances necessitating such bypass of potential recipients. Additionally, refusal code 860 ("Recipient Medical Urgency - formerly 910) also requires transplant programs to submit similar written justification when potential recipients are bypassed.

OPOs sometimes bypass potential recipients due to the medical urgency of a recipient, clinical donor issues, operational issues, or to avoid wastage (i.e., an expedited placement). Both of these circumstances are now reflected in the new, individual refusal reasons. These four reasons are categorized as "Bypass of Potential Recipient: Other Reasons" and are listed below.

Refusal Codes Requiring Blinded Narratives	Description
860 - Medical urgency of another potential recipient (Written verification by OPO & transplant center)	Center bypassed potential recipient due to the urgent medical needs of another potential recipient
861 - Operational (OPO) (Written verification by OPO)	OPO bypassed potential recipient due to transportation logistics, including distance in relation to ischemic time or weather conditions.
862 - Donor medical urgency (Written verification by OPO)	Potential recipient bypassed due to urgent donor organ placement.
863 - Expedited placement (Written verification by OPO)	Potential recipient bypassed due to an expedited placement attempt (includes offers of expanded criteria donors, OR time constraints, or family time constraints)

Use of any of these four "bypass" refusal reasons now requires a text justification to be submitted online within the match run to explain why the bypass occurred.

Refusal Code [Refusal Code Legend]

Primary Refusal Code: R

860 - Urgency of another potential recipient

Justification for the use of this Refusal Code: R

5000 of 5000 characters remaining.

This narrative will be analyzed by the UNOS Policy Compliance Department and should be **blinded, as it will be available for viewing by centers that may have been bypassed in the allocation.**

Bypass Reasons: Closing The Match Run

Prior to this implementation, OPOs were advised to close match runs for expedited placements at the last offer made in sequence according to the donor match run. Answering "No" to the new question (*Was the transplant center contacted?*) will populate bypassed centers on the match run up to where the recipient is listed, by choosing "range refusal". All fields must be coded up through acceptance of the organ upon adoption of the new refusal code series.

Policy Reminder

PTR refusal codes and narratives must be submitted to the OPTN within 30 days of the match run date **by the OPO or the UNOS Organ Center**. Codes must be obtained directly from the physician/surgeon or designee involved with the potential recipient (OPTN/UNOS Policy 7.6). Transplant centers then have 15 days to either verify or dispute a PTR code input on its behalf (OPTN/UNOS Policy 7.6.2.1).

Potential Transplant Recipient (PTR) Refusal Code Information For Transplant Professionals



UNITED NETWORK FOR ORGAN SHARING

UNOS Policy Compliance Department
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P.O. Box 2484
Richmond, VA 23218

PTR Questions?

Contact the UNOS Help Desk
1-800-978-4334

Information Transplant Professionals Need

What Are Potential Transplant Recipient Refusal Codes?

A Potential Transplant Recipient (PTR) is a waitlisted patient, whose name appears on the computer-generated match run for a specified donor organ. PTR refusal codes document the patient-specific reasons provided for each refused organ offer and normally are provided by the transplant program to the OPO staff. The UNOS Policy Compliance staff reviews every allocation and subsequent PTR refusal codes. Usage of certain PTR codes requires the submission of supplementary documentation for review.

PTR Refusal Codes – What Is Changing?

The UNOS Policy Compliance Department reviews 100% of deceased donor allocations and relies on the accuracy of these codes in its allocation analysis. In 2003, the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors approved a set of improvements to the PTR code submission process that revises refusal codes and provides for easier system entry. The following are summaries of these changes.

Categories & Codes

A revised category structure for the PTR refusal reasons helps OPOs and center staff locate appropriate codes more quickly. [Note that the extent of changes to the PTR refusal codes necessitated establishment of a new code series, and EACH reason has a *new PTR code*.]

- Potential Recipient-Related Reasons (800 through 803)
- Histocompatibility-Related Reasons (810 through 814)
- Program-Related Reasons (820 through 823)
- Donor-Related Reasons (830 through 837)
- Bypass of Potential Recipient: Policy-Related Reasons (850 through 853)
- Bypass of Potential Recipient: Other Reasons (860 through 863)
- Other – (requires text specification)

These category labels are displayed in the online code selection box to facilitate code selections.

The enhanced set of refusal reasons reflects code modification, consolidation, or deletion where appropriate, as well as the addition of specific refusal reasons that better reflect current allocation practices. For example, the former Operational (912) refusal code has now been separated into two separate codes to reflect either transplant center (821) or OPO (861) operational issues. [The complete revised list is provided in a separate flyer for quick reference.]

Multiple Refusal Reasons

OPOs and centers now have the option of providing both a primary and secondary refusal reason. The secondary refusal code is optional and cannot be the same as the primary refusal code (with the exception of “Other”, with text specification, for code 898).

Placement Attempt

Was the transplant center contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Accept: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Pending

Respond Date: Time: Note: Eastern Time

Recipient Center Contact

First Name: Last Name:

Refusal Code [Refusal Code Legend]

Primary Refusal Code: *
808 - Other Specify

898 Refusal Code - Specify Other *

Secondary Refusal Code:
802 - Multiple organ transplant or different laterality is required

Contacted vs. Not Contacted

When an expedited placement occurs, OPOs will now be prompted to answer whether the center was contacted. A new question asks the OPO “*Was the transplant center contacted?*” If the answer is “Yes”, the displayed fields **Accept**, **Respond Date/Time**, and **Recipient Center Contact First/Last Name** are required. If the answer is “No”, the recipient center contact information will not be required. However, in such cases, a refusal reason indicating why the match run was not followed will be necessary. See section on “Bypass” reasons for more explanation.

Placement Attempt

Was the transplant center contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Accept: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Pending

Respond Date: Time: Note: Eastern Time

Recipient Center Contact

First Name: Last Name: